

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

The Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 2-4, 21 and 22, and the allowance of claims 7-20 and 23-26.

By the foregoing amendment, claim 1 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer for filing in a continuation application, claims 2-4, 21 and 22 have been amended and new claims 27-30 have been added. No new matter has been added. Thus, claims 2-30 are currently pending in the application and subject to examination.

In the Office Action mailed May 26, 2006, the Examiner rejected claims 1 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hagiwara (JP08340100) in view of Abe (2001/0054726). The Examiner rejected claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as being unpatentable over Hagiwara in view of Abe and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,784,933 to Nakai (hereinafter, "Nakai").

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 5-11 and 13-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Nakai. It is noted that claim 1 has been canceled and claims 2-4, 21 and 22 have been amended. To the extent that the rejections remain applicable to the claims currently pending, the Applicant hereby traverses the rejections, as follows.

Merely to facilitate allowance, claims 2-4, 21 and 22 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 1. Thus, claims 2-4, 21 and 22 are in condition for allowance. Claims 5 and 6 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 2. In addition, claims 5 and 6 have been rewritten as new claims 27-28, which

depend from allowable claim 3, and as new claims 29-30, which depend from allowable claim 4. As such, claims 5-6, 27-28 and 29-30 are allowable for at least the same reasons as claims 2, 3 and 4, respectively.


CONCLUSION

For all of the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the claims now pending patentability distinguish the present invention from the cited references. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and an issuance of a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner determine that any further action is necessary to place this application into better form, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned representative at the number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 01-2300, referencing docket number 107317-00061.

Respectfully submitted,


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